BUTTERFLIES FROM THE GREEK ISLAND OF ANDROS, END JUNE, 1983.

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The island of Andros is situated in the Aegean sea, at approximately 38° of latitude north and is the northernmost of the Cyclades islands. It is located between the island of Evvia and the island of Tinos. The former lies to its north-west and is separated from it by a distance of about six nautical miles, while the latter lies to its south-east and is separated from it by a distance of about .6 nautical miles. Evvia is a large land mass and its closest distance from the mainland is less than 100 metres, a fact that rather diminishes its insular properties. Tinos, on the other hand, is typical of most Cycladic islands, being arid, well separated from the mainland and possessing a relatively small land mass.

The area of Andros is about 390 square kilometres, its length 39.5 kms and its greatest width 16 kms.

The island is generally hilly and mountainous (highest peak 1003m). The hills and mountains are separated by well watered gulleys and valleys.

The vegetation consists mainly of garrigue, tending toward maquis in well watered situations. In higher places, where the water is more extensive, there still exist what appear to be remnants of Mediterranean mixed deciduous forest, which at present is much admixed with maquis and cultivations. The watered valleys are characterized by rather extensive cultivations (Orchards, olive groves, vineyards, cereals, etc).

During a good part of the warm season the island is severely affected by strong north-east winds, known as "meltemia", and these, no doubt, play an important part in the island's faunal composition.

Collecting on Andros took place between 26th and 29th June 1983 and the following sites were visited:—

1. Fellos. This locality, situated in the north-west of Andros, is characterized by a narrow and fairly well watered valley, flanked by rather dry hills with garrigue. The valley itself has olive trees, carobs, fig trees, chaste trees, oleanders and vineyards.

2. Valley near town of Gavrion. This locality is extensively cultivated, primarily with cereals, and is situated a few kms south-east from Fellos.

3. Coastal area near village of Varidhi. This locality, in north-east Andros, consists of a well watered gulley, surrounded by dry hills. The bottom of the gulley has plane trees, oleanders and a great profusion of chaste trees. The surrounding hills are mainly covered with garrigue.

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4. Near village of Katakilos. This is a hilly place with olive trees, vineyards, carobs and occasional plane trees, oleanders and chaste trees near water courses. The locality is situated in the centre of the island.

5. Arni. This is a well watered locality situated at between 600 and 750m., on the western side of Mt. Petalo, at the very centre of Andros. Here are to be found dense clusters of plane trees, at least two species of oak, chestnut trees, arbutus trees and great concentrations of ferns. A most uncharacteristic biotope for a Cycladic island.

A list of recorded butterfly species follows.

Papilionidae

1. *Papilio machaon* Linnaeus. A few observed near Gavrion, one captured near Katakilos.

2. *Iphiclides podalirius* Linnaeus. A few observed near Gavrion.

Pieridae

3. *Pieris brassicae* Linnaeus. A few recorded at Fellos and near Gavrion.

4. *Pontia daplidice* Linnaeus. One captured at Fellos and a fair number observed near Gavrion and at Arni.

5. *Gonepteryx cleopatra* Linnaeus. Several captured at Arni, neat Katakilos and near Varidhi. All females recorded of the whitish upperside morph.

6. *Leptidea sinapis* Linnaeus. A single fresh male captured at Arni. No others observed.

Nymphalidae

7. *Vanessa cardui* Linnaeus. Generally recorded, but not numerous.

8. *Argynnis paphia* Linnaeus. Common at Arni. A number of males captured, mostly worn. This butterfly seems well established there, but its discovery was rather unexpected, as it is a denizen of lusher situations. In Arni it probably represents an isolated population that somehow found its way there either from the mainland, or from the island of Evvia.

Satyridae

9. *Hipparchia aristaeus* Bonelli. Confirmed by the genitalia. Captured at Arni, near Katakilos and near Varidhi. Mostly taking to the shaded trunks of plane trees and olive trees.

10. *Maniola jurtina* Linnaeus. A few recorded at Fellos, many captured at Arni, under the shade of plane trees. Confirmed by genitalia.

11. *Lasiommata megera* Linnaeus. Generally distributed, but nowhere numerous.

12. *Pararge aegeria* Linnaeus. A fair number captured at Arni in moist situations.

Lycaenidae

13. *Lycaena phlaeas* Linnaeus. Generally distributed and common. Very numerous at Arni.

14. *Polyommatus icarus* Rottemburg. A fair number captured at Fellos, always associated with a species of vetch.

Hesperiidae

15. *Carcharodus alceae* Esper. A small number captured at Arni and at Fellos.

16. *Carcharodus orientalis* Reverdin. A small number of males captured at Fellos. Confirmed by the genitalia.

17. *Thymelicus acteon* Rottemburg. Generally distributed and not uncommon.

Of all the species recorded, undoubtedly the most remarkable one is *Argynnis paphia*, a butterfly which somehow managed to establish itself and survive on Andros. I don't believe this species has ever been reported from any of the other Cycladic islands.

References

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LITHOSIA QUADRA L.: FOUR-SPOTTED FOOTMAN AND EILEMA COMPLANA L.: SCARCE FOOTMAN, IN SOUTH WESTMORLAND (VC 69) IN 1984. — Fifteen *Lithosia quadra* in four nights: July 28-29th (three), 29-30th (two), July 31st-Aug. 1st. (nine), Aug. 1st.-2nd (one), appears to be the biggest migration of this species, so far north, as recorded on the distribution map in Heath, *Moths & butterflies of Gt. Britain & Ireland.* All were males in immaculate condition, and only two entered the M.V. trap which I operate every night, close to the white walls of my house, which act as a sheet. During this short period, 221 *Eilema lurideola* were counted, the normal average here. In the early hours of Aug. 2nd. before switching the M.V. light off, with a minimum night temperature of 13c. and rain falling, the walls were plastered with moths, and among them were numerous Footmen, one with folded wings, which I instantly recognised as a species I have been on the lookout for, during the seventeen years here, *Eilema complana* or perhaps *E. sericea* Gregson. Comparing it with my *complana* specimens taken in Hampshire, it was identical in every detail with these. This species has been recorded before in V.C. 69, but is at about its northern limit. — J. BRIGGS, 5 Deepdale Close, Beetham, Cumbria LA7 7AY.